

Serial No.: 10/528,780
Docket No.: 28951.2193

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, as amended, remain herein.

1. The Office Action states that foreign patent documents JP 55-147898 and JP 53-119023 were not previously received or considered. Copies of those references are submitted herewith for consideration by the Examiner.

2. Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Hayakawa et al. U.S. Patent 6,863,153. Hayakawa discloses a loudspeaker diaphragm having a three-dimensional structure resembling a screw propeller to increase the mechanical strength of the speaker diaphragm. As shown in FIG. 4, Hayakawa discloses slightly increasing the thickness of the recessed portions to suppress division vibrations.

However, Hayakawa fails to disclose an odd number of three or more thick parts extending radially from a center part to an outer periphery. Hayakawa's radial "projections" are not thick parts as shown by FIG. 4. Rather, those projections are thin parts created by deformation of the diaphragm with the bottom area 6 slightly thicker to suppress division vibration. *See* col. 4, lns. 51-54. Further, Hayakawa fails to disclose interlevel parts between the thick parts with gradual changes in thickness from the outer periphery to the center part, as claimed by applicants.

Serial No.: 10/528,780
Docket No.: 28951.2193

As to claim 2, Hayakawa fails to disclose a thin part at an inner part thereof, as claimed.

As to claim 3, Hayakawa discloses a diaphragm formed to produce an air flow. By deforming the surface of the diaphragm, Hayakawa introduces phase disturbance, thus deteriorating sound quality. Hayakawa fails to disclose a diaphragm wherein thick parts are formed at a rear surface of the diaphragm such that the front surface of the diaphragm is not deformed. Thus, Hayakawa fails to disclose all elements of applicants' claim 3.

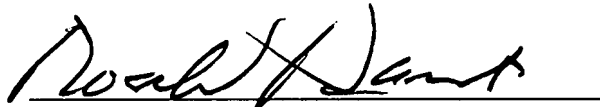
Hayakawa does not disclose all elements of applicants' claimed invention and therefore is not a proper basis for rejection under § 102. Accordingly, claims 1-5 are potentially distinguished over Hayakawa, and applicants request withdrawal of this ground of rejection, and allowance of all claims.

Serial No.: 10/528,780
Docket No.: 28951.2193

For all the foregoing reasons, this application should now be fully in condition for allowance. The PTO is authorized to charge/credit any overpayments and/or underpayments of fees to Deposit Account No. 19-4293 (Order No. 28951.2193). Should the Examiner feel that additional changes would place this application in even better form for issue, the Examiner is invited to telephone applicants' undersigned attorneys at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP

Date: June 21, 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger W. Parkhurst", is written over a horizontal line.

Roger W. Parkhurst
Reg. No. 25,177
R. Whitney Winston
Reg. No. 44,432

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP
1330 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036
Tel: 202-429-3000
Fax: 202-429-3902